CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE
Digest

RAY LEWIS
EDITOR AND
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The Hon. J. Earl Lawson Writes

Dear Ray:

Though I generally agree, and sometimes disagree, with the editorials contained in the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, I write you for the first time by reason of your editorial "British Government vs American Films" in your issue of August 21st, 1948. As a Canadian and Britisher, I am motivated to write you with respect to the above editorial because it is so at variance with facts and so erroneous in its conclusions.

The British Government does not in any way direct or supervise the production of films in the United Kingdom.

The British Government does not pay subsidies to any producer for producing quota or other pictures. The Board of Trade makes loans to Independent Producers to stimulate the industry just as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation does in the United States.

You state with respect to the British picture "It forged into foreign markets, *particularly into the long coveted American market.*" If you had ascertained the pitiable returns in the United States for British pictures as compared to the approximately $70,000,000 earned by American pictures in the United Kingdom, I doubt if you would have made the above statement with its necessary inferences. In an issue of your paper a short time ago, you criticized Terry Ramsaye for pre-judging "Hamlet" before he had seen it. I suggest you have made the same error by prejudging the British production of the future as "quota" pictures.

It is not my purpose to answer categorically each argument advanced by your editorial as that would occupy too much space, but rather to state the case for the "quota" legislation in the United Kingdom. I hold no brief for the British Government, but in fairness and justice to them, it is proper that Canadians should have an unbiased statement of facts.

When the British Government imposed the tax of 75% upon the earnings of American films in England in 1947, the Hollywood producers decided that they would not send films to England in future. The production of films in the British Isles at that time was not sufficient to keep open the motion picture theatres of the United Kingdom. The result was that the exhibitors of the United Kingdom would have had their investment destroyed by a foreign power beyond their control. Realizing that situation, the producers of England made herculean efforts to increase the production of British films without lessening the quality, with the result that by June of 1948 the prospective production of British films was sufficient to supply the market, if need be. In other words, the noose of the economic stranglehold which American films had upon the British market was loosened. Every student of politics and economics learns the fundamental principle that if one country comes under the domination of another country economically, it is soon followed by political domination. Therefore, the British Government, to encourage British producers of films in their efforts, enacted a 45% quota.

The producers of England have scheduled many feature films for the year commencing October 1st, 1948, not "quota" pictures but quality features, as their production schedules were set with a view to invading the markets of the world and before the "quota" was enacted. The Rank Organisation alone plans to spend $48,000,000 on production of feature films in the ensuing year.

You allege that the people of England will suffer because of the production of "quota" pictures. May I state to you factually that in the Odeon and Gaumont-British circuits, approximating 600 of the finest theatres in England, British pictures were occupying 55% to 60% of screen time and just as profitably as American pictures.

HON. J. EARL LAWSON, K.C.

If British production was of such a quality to profitably occupy 60% of screen time in the United Kingdom, how then can it be said that a 45% quota will cause the production of the much disparaged so-called "quota" pictures.

I shall not attempt to defend the action of the British Government in the imposition originally of the 75% tax. I argued the case for the exigencies of the United Kingdom Government and people in your presence at the last annual meeting of the Quebec Allied Association when an inspired resolution was introduced condemnatory of the British Government.

Now, my dear Ray, if you were an exhibitor in England instead of in Canada, and subject to the difficulties and problems of the British exhibitor which I studied in England last summer, you would have a different view on quota legislation than you express.

I trust you will give space to publish this letter in the next issue of your esteemed paper.

Yours sincerely,

J. EARL LAWSON.

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« Prairie News »

By BRUCE PEACOCK

MISS CHRISTINE GRAHAM, manager of the Grand theatre in Regina for the last three years, was presented with a morocco travelling bag at a farewell luncheon held by the Regina Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association.

Miss Graham took over managership of the theatre in 1945. Previously, her sister, Mrs. E. Wiseman, was manager.

The Grand was recently sold to Famous Players for a sum in the neighborhood of $90,000.

Miss Graham is retiring from show business. Although her future plans are uncertain, she is staying in Regina for a short time.

H. A. Bercovich, making the presentation, extended the best wishes of the association to Miss Graham and Mrs. Wiseman and paid tribute to their family's long connection with show business in Regina.

About 11 members of the Regina Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association, in which Miss Graham served as secretary for the last year, were present.

A two-column cut in The Regina Leader-Post showed a slashed seat cushion from the Broadway theatre, Regina, and illustrated a story about an outbreak of seat slashing in the city, with the Broadway one of the hardest hit.

H. A. Bercovich, owner of the Broadway, said the damage to the illustrated cushion was the worst example of vandalism he had seen in 30 years of theatre operation in the city.

The Broadway was reopened in June with 710 new-type seats cost-$18,000. In recent weeks, seven of the air-foam cushions have been slashed.

All-out efforts are being made to curb such destruction and offenders will be taken to court. Theatre staffs have been alerted and the police department has assigned special constables to the theatres.

* * *

The Rex, Regina, has new carpets in the lobby, on the stairway to the manager's office and in the ladies' room.

Astaire and Rogers In Colour At Last

When Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers started their roles in M-G-M's "The Barkleys of Broadway", it marked their first appearance as a team in colour.

Although it will be their tenth time together on the screen and although each has made individual appearances in Technicolor in numerous pictures. their previous co-starring musicals were photographed in black and white.

JESSEL EMCEES TOA DINNER

George Jessel, noted actor, wit and film producer, was toastmaster at the President's dinner which climaxed the Theatre Owners of America convention in the Drake Hotel, Chicago, last Saturday night.

Among the other speakers were Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Mayor Martin H. Kennelly, Mr. Barney Balaban, President, Paramount Pictures and Spyros Skouras, President, 20th Century-Fox Film Corp.

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS !

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CHILTON and ROBERTS

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Ben Cronk Reports From Hollywood

A brilliant party climaxed fourteen years of struggle on the part of the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, business men and public officials to attain official recognition in the form of a Hollywood postmark. It was announced also that Rand McNally is making new map plates on which the name Hollywood will be printed. One of the features of the luncheon was presentation by the company of a huge premiere globe in which the glamour capitol appears on the world map.

"Tap Roots" opened to big business as did "Good Sam", both pictures getting top rating by critics.

Met Kem Merritt at the Ambassador yesterday feeling fine and looking very fit.

"NEWSIE" SHORT STARS HOPE

Paramount has completed production of a special short film as its contribution to National Newspaper Boy Day, to be observed October 2, as the climax to Newspaper Boy Week.

Bob Hope, who was a newsboy in his early years in Cleveland, stars in the film in the role of a newsboy.

This is the first time a film in tribute to newsboys has been produced as part of the observance. The picture will be shown in theatres throughout the country during Newspaper Boy Week. The event is sponsored by the American Newspaper Publishers Association and the International Circulation Managers Association, representing 1500 newspapers. Service clubs and other civic groups are participating. Hope and other leading network artists will salute Newspaper Boy Week on their radio shows as a tribute to the lads who start their business careers by selling newspapers.

Bergman French Choice

Ingrid Bergman, shortly to appear in "Joan of Arc", released by RKO Radio, was chosen most popular foreign actress by the French public and exhibitors in the annual poll arranged by the publications Cinemonde and Film Francais. The award is a statuette reproducing the famous Victory of Samothrace in the Louvre where the award was made on September 27. Diplomats, civic officials and stars of stage and screen were present for the occasion after which Miss Bergman planed back to Hollywood.

WHOLESALE

A drive-in theatre in Las Vegas is doing booming business with a new gimmick — $1 per car, with all the people you can carry. The axles on those hot rods must be groaning more than usual.

RAY PRESENTS

ON August 25th of this year, The Hon. J. Earl Lawson, President of Odeon Theatres of Canada Limited, wrote me the letter reproduced on our front page.

I replied to Mr. Lawson's letter and, subsequently he and I had a discussion, at which time Mr. Lawson stated that he would forward to me some figures which would prove what I had to say in my editorial British Government vs. American Films, contained statements which were not correct. Mr. Lawson forwarded to me on Sept. 14, a copy of the complete text of Mr. J. Arthur Rank's address to the General Council of Cinematographic Exhibitors Association in Great Britain.

Since Mr. Lawson requested that his letter of August 25th should be published, I have done so, but I am not satisfied, after reading Mr. Rank's address, nor after my several talks with Mr. Lawson, that I was in error in the opinions which I expressed in my editorial, British Government vs. American Films.

However, Mr. Lawson may have a point when he states, "The British Government does not in any way direct or supervise the production of films in the United Kingdom.

"The British Government does not pay subsidies to any producer for producing quota or other pictures. The Board of Trade makes loans to Independent Producers to stimulate the industry just as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation does in the United States."

ON re-reading the editorial, British Government vs. American Films, I find no statement therein that mentions that the British Government directs or supervises the production of films in the United Kingdom. What I did say was "Pictures cannot be produced through Government Regulations, or under government direction and supervision, since governments are not producers and know little about show business or entertainment."

Mr. Lawson read this statement to mean that the British Government was directing and supervising the production of British Films, to which statement he might with reason object. But I made no such statement in respect to the British Government.

Regardless of Mr. Lawson's incorrect interpretation of a general statement which I made, I was incorrect in stating that "Pictures cannot be produced through Government Regulations, or under government direction and supervision." Since dictatorships have come into Government operation, we have had governments not only directing film operations, from script to screen, but in some countries we have had what is termed a "nationalization" of the film industry, which in plainer language boils down to a Government Film Industry Monopoly.

In respect to the question of British Government subsidies, Mr. Lawson has a technical point in his favour, for the British Government is not actually providing subsidies. The British Board of Trade is interested indirectly and directly in providing finance for the production of British Pictures through the establishment of a Government Bank Loan of $20,000,000.

A STATEMENT in the House of Commons on Tues., Sept. 21st, made on behalf of Harold Wilson, the Board of Trade's President, by Jack Belcher, Board of Trade's Parliamentary Secretary, disclosed the formation of an interim company, capitalization $10,000,000, which will finance British film production, these funds becoming immediately available to British distributors following the Belcher announcement.

Legislation in respect to the $20,000,000 proposed loan will not be finalized until some time in October, but it is reported that British Lion, which company was purchased by Sir Alexander Korda and his associates from the estate of the late S. W. Smith, has circularized shareholders for authority to borrow $8,000,000 from the Interim Company.

It is neither illogical nor unreasonable to presume that had the British Labour Government not introduced the Ad Valorem taxation and the 45% Quota legislation, there would not have been Government support to the Board of Trade's Finance Loan proposition. However there is a distinction between a government subsidy and a financial loan. In the former, the Government does not expect to get back the money, in the latter, the lender expects to get back at least the amount of the loan.

Mr. Lawson objects to my statement, "It forged into foreign markets, particularly into the long coveted American market." I do not know what British films earned in the United States; I am certain that they did not earn as much as American films earned in Great Britain; but I do know that British producers and distributors have been endeavoring, as far back as 1915, *to get distribution in the United States, and that this market was "much coveted" by British producers.*

I CAN remember that thirty years ago or more, when British films were sold to the United States, their titles were changed, and they were distributed under the trademark of their American distributors. I remember that it was difficult to purchase British pictures for Canada, that distributors were obliged to purchase such pictures through the American market; and I also remember Sir Oswald Stoll's effort to establish a British distributing company in the United States.

Just previous to the Ad Valorem event, there were statements made by Spyros Skouras, by Barney Balaban, that contracts for British Pictures had been made with J. Arthur Rank and with Sir Alexander Korda — contracts which looked like many millions of dollars in revenue for British producers; and that there was a campaign in the United States directed toward increasing play dates for British films and increasing revenue for British films. I do not know whether the statements made by the American majors, by Korda and by Rank were a lot of bologna, but in view of the favorable press comments on British pictures, the exhibitors' favorable attitude, the friendliness of the American public, the wonderful British pictures which were being marketed and exhibited in the United States, the fact that Mr. Rank had a few important theatres in the U.S. which guaranteed him his first run, I thought that British Films were off to a good American market.

I AM going to quote from Mr. Rank's address to the General Council of Cinematographic Exhibitors Associations in Great Britain which Mr. Lawson sent on to me, and after reading the excerpt, both Mr. Lawson and you, my readers, must agree that Mr. Rank is of the same opinion as I am, in respect to my statement in paragraph four, British Government vs. American Films editorial. May I be permitted to quote the paragraph from my own editorial first.

(*Continued on Page* 10)

Toronto and District

By BILL PRESS

ONE of the recipients of King's honors at the investiture which was conducted at Queen's Park, Toronto, was Jack Arthur, district manager of Famous Players Canadian Corp. For his support of the war effort, Jack Arthur received the award of member of the Order of the British Empire, announcement of which was made last year.

Hon. Ray Lawson, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, made the presentation in a ceremony which was conducted in the Parliament Buildings. Jack Arthur is entitled to the designation of "M.B.E." after his name.

Mrs. Herb Allen was also decorated with the M.B.E. by the Lieut.-Governor at the same investiture in recognition of her war work. The presentations took place Sept. 24.

* * *

Toronto film fans are trying to remember when they saw the last Soviet feature on the screen of a local theatre. There is no word of any official action with respect to the presentation of Russian pictures in Ontario theatres.

There is a rumor from New York City that Soviet product has been withdrawn from circulation in the U.S.A. but other foreign-language pictures are in increasing demand.

* * *

The India Government Trade Commissioner conducted a special screening of India moving pictures at the Fairlawn Theatre, North Toronto, before a large gathering of invited guests. The Sunday program included an important documentary, "The Last Rites of Mahatma Gandhi", which has been added to the archives of the Dominion of India.

This was the second time that India pictures had been screened at the Fairlawn and there was also a presentation at the Royal Alexandra Theatre last year.

* * *

Joseph M. Franklin and Peter Herschorn of the Franklin and Herschorn circuit in the Maritimes, were in Toronto for a brief visit.

Latest additions to the adult entertainment list in Ontario are "Lulu Belle", "Shed No Tears", "The Rope", "Money Madness" and "Deadlier Than the Male".

* * *

The Ontario Hydro-Electric Commission has ruled that shadow boxes are exterior display advertising and, accordingly, cannot be illuminated under the dimout regulations which are being enforced until next spring to conserve power.

Because of the threat by Chairman R. H. Saunders of the Commission of the early use of switch-offs for total blackouts to effect further saving in electricity, a number of theatre proprietors are taking steps to install independent Diesel - operated power plants for theatre-front and other lighting.

* * *

Canadian Odeon expects to open the Hyland Theatre at Yonge and St. Clair, Toronto, with "Hamlet" in the near future while the Humber at Bloor and Jane is scheduled to start in November. Incidentally, "Hamlet" opened Oct. 25 at the Glebe Theatre, Ottawa with seats $1.50 and $1. The Shakespeare production was reported to be sold out for three weeks in advance at the Kent, Montreal.

* * *

About 40 juveniles from seven to 12 years of age were "guinea pigs" for an audience test at a performance of "Biscuit Eater" in the Famous Players' Village Theatre, Forest Hill Village. The reaction of the youngsters during the screening was photographed by an infra-red camera to determine the interest of the kids in the feature.

Bert Brown, of Famous Players' head office, was in charge of arrangements for the test. Manager of the Village is James Simmons, handicapped war veteran.

* * *

E. S. Coatsworth, in charge of special exploitation on "Hamlet" for Eagle-Lion Films, is a grandson of the late Judge Coatsworth who was once mayor of the city of Toronto. "Torchy" Coatsworth has been spending some time in Montreal for the picture's premiere at the Kent.

* * *

Fred Jackson, manager of Loew's Theatre, London, conducted a highly-successful stunt in co-operation with the London Free Press for "Easter Parade". Scene cuts from the picture were published on five different days and the public was invited to name the Irving Berlin tune that fit each illustration.

There were 1,200 replies — three cash prizes and 25 double passes were awarded the 28 winners.

ROBERT HIRSCH PASSES

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Robert Hirsch, of Montreal, on Tuesday, September 21st. Mr. Hirsch was a brother to Marc Hirsch, manager of the Eglinton Theatre in Toronto, and an uncle to J. Arthur Hirsch, president of Consolidated Theatres in Montreal. Though not directly connected with the industry, Mr. Hirsch was known and loved by many Canadian film pioneers.

The funeral was held on Thursday, and was private with the family in attendance.

The Canadian Moving Picture Digest

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BRUCE PEACOCK.....Regina, Sask.
JACK DROY.....Vancouver, B.C.
WILL McLAUGHLIN.....Ottawa, Ont.
BILL PRESS.....Toronto, Ont.

David Sutton, doorman at the Bedford Theatre, Toronto, has been appointed assistant manager at the Ace Theatre. He assumed his new duties on Monday last.

* * *

Associated Screen News Limited had the press gang at its Ontario headquarters on Adelaide Street West, Toronto, for a special screening of two very unusual films, "Expedition Moose" and "The Carling Conservation Story". The first is a complete study of the moose which was directed by Randolph Peterson of the Royal Ontario Museum. The second deals with the protection of wild life and was suggested by D. C. Betts, president of Canadian Breweries Limited. Jack Chisholm was host.

* * *

Appointment of Max Sheine, B.E.M., formerly with Eagle-Lion in Vancouver to the position of office manager and city sales representative for Eagle-Lion in Toronto, is announced by Frank Fisher, general manager. In the industry since 1922, beginning in theatre operation at various Ontario centres including Toronto, Max Sheine served with the R.C.A.F. through most of the war, and was awarded the British Empire Medal while on active service. He joined Eagle-Lion in August, 1946, and has since been in the Vancouver branch.

Six Midnight Shows For Toronto Instead of Two

In their fourth important service to Ontario exhibs recently, MPTAO has been instrumental in securing an amendment to city By-Law 248, which prohibited Toronto theatres from opening their doors to the public between the hours of 12:15 a.m. and 8 a.m. except Christmas and New Year's evenings. The new amendment, No. 262, passed on Sept. 23, 1948, allows midnight shows on Thanksgiving, Dominion Day, Labor Day, Civic Holiday, and May 24th as well as the two previously allowed.

QUICK TAKES

Show Biz Acclaimed At Air Force Rally

Bob Hope, on behalf of Show Business, accepted an engraved bronze plaque bearing the names of men and women who died while serving in camp shows. Presentation was made by the Secretary of Air at the big re-union and convention at Madison Square Gardens last week while hundreds of top entertainment personalities and thousands of airmen looked on.

Seidelman To Europe For Universal-Int.

As part of the company's streamlined foreign distribution policy, Joseph H. Seidelman, U-I's head of foreign operations is continent-bound to line up European markets for 1948-49 product.

Edwards To Handle "Macbeth" Roadshow

Steve Edwards, Republic's ad-head, hits the road with Orson Welles' production of "Macbeth". Milton Silvers, exec ass't to Edwards, will handle the ad-chores during the run.

Petrillo May Remove Record Ban First

Neither AFM nor the executives of the large recording companies would make a statement on the situation, though there have been known discussions.

Regional Sales Meets Open U-I Sales Drive

First of a series of four was held over the weekend at the Waldorf-Astoria in the start of the company's Unity Sales Drive.

American "Twist" Showings Delayed One Year

Because of objections raised by Jewish organizations J. Arthur Rank's "Oliver Twist" will not be released at this time.

Autry Signs Seven Year Deal With Columbia

Contract calls for six high-budget westerns in new Monochrome.

Old Josh Billcombings writes—

From Kinematograph Weekly

"In spite of excellent performances by Bob Hope and a strong supporting cast in "The Paleface," Jane Russell, to our mind, stands right out in front — but then, you know what a mind we've got!"

Eugene Shuftan, director of photography for Canadian International Screen Productions, points out a feature of a sound stage at Renaissance Studios, to Charles Korvin, Hollywood star.

Charles Korvin to Star For Renaissance Films

Hollywood star, Charles Korvin, arrived in Montreal to confer with Leonard H. Fields and Joseph Than, executive producers of Canadian International Screen Productions. He was tendered a press reception at Renaissance Films Studios.

Korvin is considered one of Hollywood's top young leading men, and is best known for his successes playing opposite Merle Oberon. Most recent is RKO's current "Berlin Express", which followed Universal's "This Love of Ours" and International's "Temptation".

Korvin has just completed a tour of leading houses in the straw-hat circuit, ending the season in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, from which he motored to Montreal to discuss details of a story Than and Fields are planning for him. Following his local visit, Mr. and Mrs. Korvin will proceed to New York and a probable stage role until shooting time for Canadian International Screen Productions.

Canadian Archbishop Sets Film "Clean-Up"

Aimed at checking the "evil influences of bad movies," a one-day "clean-up" campaign on Oct. 31 has been decreed by Archbishop Vachon of Ottawa in a circular letter read from all Roman Catholic pulpits.

Condemning motion pictures as "often extremely objectionable" from the Christian viewpoint, he emphasized that "no one can question the power of movies in our modern life." He also referred to some films marked "adults only" as being unfit even for adults.

PIC-TOURS

"Rachel and the Stranger" (RKO), Shea's Toronto — fine picture — excellent business.

"The Emperor Waltz" (M-G-M), leaves Shea's after three big weeks. Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine make love in Technicolor with the wonderful Canadian Rockies as backdrop — need I say more.

"The Lost One" (Traviata) Columbia's opera plays to good business for a second week at the International Cinema — beautiful production.

"The Search" — M-G-M's powerful documentary of displaced persons doing standout business at the Nortown and Victoria Theatres.

What Else Is New

"Oklahoma" completely sold out one week before opening at Toronto's Royal Alexandra — and with a $4.20 top.

TSO Women's Committee runs "Symphony Fashion Show" at Eaton Auditorium for five days, two-a-day, at $2 top.

HOCKEY NIGHT AT GARDENS

Don't forget the Variety Club's big Hockey Night (Blue and White Game) on October 12th at the Maple Leaf Gardens in Toronto. All proceeds go to the club's Vocational Guidance School For Handicapped Children Fund. Tickets are from a dollar up to three— get yours EARLY from club members — it's gonna be a great night!

FBI TEAMS UP
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MURDER OF

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Paramount St. John Opens Proceeds To Legion Fund

The opening ceremonies of F-P's new Paramount theatre in St. John, N.B., proved to be a gala occasion for the two hundred invited guests, and the many patrons who filled the luxurious new theatre. Every one expressed delight with the comfort and beauty of the new house, and many gadgets and features seen in the eastern city for the first time came in for especial comment.

Guests were received by Morris Stein, F-P exec from Toronto, F. Harrison Howe, manager of the new house, and William Magee his assistant. Theatre was officially opened by the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. D. L. MacLaren, and Mayor J. D. McKenna, amid applause, presented a gold key to Mr. Howe. The Lieutenant-Governor, in his address, praised the generosity of Famous Players in donating the proceeds of the first night to the Canadian Legion's Benevolent fund, and Col. Garfield Stevens, president of the local command, in accepting the check, heartily thanked the donors.

Mayor McKenna, in the course of his address, spoke of the late Walter H. Golding, popular F-P manager in St. John, and the audience broke into a spontaneous tribute. A wire of greeting was read from J. J. Fitzgibbons, F-P prexy, containing special mention of F. G. Spencer and his sons, Gordon and Gerald — Mr. Spencer stood up and took a bow amid applause. Harrison Howe's managerial address summed things up, and he came in for rounds of congrats.

After the picture, Paramount's "A Foreign Affair", which was considered by all the show people present top-notch entertainment, the invited guests proceeded to a buffet supper at the Admiral Beatty hotel, where Morris Stein and R. S. Roddick, F-P's Eastern superintendant were hosts.

Among the out-of-town exhibitors attending were Archie and Lloyd Mason of Springhill, N.S.; W.W.O. Fenety of Fredericton, N.B.; and Charles Staples of St. Stephen, N.B. Mr. Mason, in an interview with the local newspapers, gave high praise to the liveability of the theatre's projection room, referring particularly to the better ventilation provided the operators.

Editorials in the local paper welcomed the Paramount and expressed delight in the faith in St. John's future shown by Famous Players and in their generosity in donating the first night's proceeds to charitable work. Kudos were also given to Paramount for donating the feature, and to the Provincial Government for waiving the tax for the night.

ABOUT PARAMOUNT STAFF

Manager F. Harrison Howe, born at Newcastle, N.B. (Lord Beaverbrook's old home town), educated at the Chatham Grammar School, and joined the staff of the Capitol Theatre as an usher under the late W. H. Golding. Associated with the Capitol for seventeen years, going up all the time until he became manager. An enthusiastic member and past president of the Kinsmen club, Mr. Howe is known for his support of all community efforts.

Assistant manager William Magee is a St. John man, educated Saint John High School and Acadia University. He has been associated with F-P's Capitol these past six years.

James A. Whitebone, and W. J. Monte Chase are the Paramount's projectionists. Both Saint John men, both veterans of the First World War, both are active in community affairs. Mr. Whitebone, is a councillor of the city and president of the New Brunswick Federation of Labour. Mr. Chase is prominent in Legion affairs, and an active worker in the Anglican church of which he was a vestryman of St. John's Stone Church. He is noted for the number of shows he has arranged for invalids and patients in hospitals and institutions. Both men have been associated with the Capitol for twenty years.

Citizens of St. John are highly gratified by these appointments, and also the fact that as doormen, four members of the local Commissionaire Corps are being used.

Remainder of the staff consists of two cashiers, six candy bar attendants, and eight ushers.

MPTAO HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

Arrangements have been completed to hold the Seventh Annual Meeting of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario in the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, Tuesday, October 26th. The business session will commence promptly at 10:30 a.m., followed by luncheon in the Vanity Fair at 12:45. Indications point to this year's affair being the most important meeting yet held. The attendance of exhibitors from all parts of the province will be increased by the addition of several new members. President H. C. D. (Dick) Main will preside and many matters of importance to exhibitors will be discussed at the business session. Arch Jolley says, "Plan to be there."

F-P's New Paramount A Luxury Palace

by Alice L. Fairweather

A BLAZE of light greets the passer-by on Saint John's King Square from the fine neon sign of the Paramount Theatre, Famous Players' new house which opened its doors on September 21st. Show is said to be the most luxurious east of Toronto.

The exterior is of concrete brick, reinforced with steel. Across the entire front is a wide band of cadet blue vitrolite. Entering the foyer one finds a candy and popcorn bar of harlequin red leatherette. Milk, tea and coffee will be served here as well as soft drinks.

The auditorium is divided into two sections, upper and lower, there being no balcony. The upper section of 558 seats is provided with facilities for smokers. Seats, of the latest pattern are Kroeler push backs with soft green velour cushions. The stair carpets in this de-luxe section are of brown and yellow in a triangle or lattice pattern and are cleverly laid to leave a white line in the pattern marking each step.

In the lower section the spring-filled seats have dusty-pink leather backs and gray cushions. Carpets here blend in tone and design with wall decorations which are modernistic, a lovely blending of deep rose, mauve and brown with notes of pale blue and gold. Draperies harmonize nicely with these shades. The main curtain is rust, — the second — turquoise, the third — gray. All are operated by automatic controls. All draperies are flame-resistant, of spun rayon.

Theatre is air conditioned throughout and the projection equipment is of the most modern type. Seats are staggered so that a perfect view is obtained frim every seat in the house. There is one store in the building.

The neon sign, entirely made by the Atlantic Neon Sign Co. of Saint John has six hundred feet of tubing and over one thousand lamps in borders travelling at four hundred and fifty flashes per minute. Same company installed the indirect interior lighting throughout. There is a large, four tier Read-O-Graph using Adlier silout letters with the name "Paramount" featured.

John Flood and Sons were the contractors, draperies were furnished by Stanly Buston and the painting and decorating done by the James Pullen Company, all of Saint John.

Famous Players' Execs To Niagara Falls Meet

First in a series of meetings for F-P's partners and executives is the Eastern meeting skedded for the General Brock hotel in Niagara Falls. Meetings will run from Monday through Thursday, Oct. 18th to 21st.

Entire Toronto Head Office staff will be present at the grand closing dinner on Thursday.

Warner Execs To Studio Discuss Top Product Sales

A special planning session of W-B's top execs. began Monday at the motion picture company's Burbank, Cal., studio to blueprint intensive merchandising of the concern's most important forthcoming productions. Major Albert Warner, Samuel Schneider, Ben Kalmenson, General Sales Manager, Harry Kalmine, General Manager of Warner Bros. Theatres, and Mort Blumenstock, Advertising and Publicity Chief, arrived Monday to meet with Harry M. and Jack L. Warner and prepare for the presentation, during the next few months, of what the company describes as the most varied program of entertainment in Warner history.

Pics scheduled for early release which were discussed at the meeting included "Johnny Belinda", the much-talked-about drama starring Jane Wyman and Lew Ayres; "June Bride", in which Bette Davis returns to a light comedy role with Robert Montgomery; "Fighter Squadron", the Technicolor story of the Air Force, made in cooperation with the U.S.A.F. and starring Edmond O'Brien and Robert Stack; 'One Sunday Afternoon', famous comedy which has been made into a Technicolor musical with Dennis Morgan, Janis Paige and Don DeFore as the stars; "Adventures of Don Juan", also in Technicolor and starring Errol Flynn and Viveca Lindfors; and "John Loves Mary", the Broadway hit, filmed with Ronald Reagan, Jack Carson and Patricia Neal in the stellar roles.

In addition, the Warner execs. viewed a number of films currently before the cameras at the Burbank studio, including Danny Kaye's "Happy Times" and "The Fountainhead", starring Garry Cooper.

Future production plans and general policies of the company were also discussed. Arthur Abeles, Jr., newly appointed Managing Director for Warner Bros. Pictures, Ltd., in England, came over for the meetings.

TRADE HEADLINES

Johnston Sells Pix to Soviet — Deal For Ten A Year Appears All But Set

●

Blumberg Spikes U-I Dissension Talk Company In Good Shape; Not For Sale

●

Wisconsin Rules Theatre Checkers Must Have a Detective's License

●

Republic Schedule Set For Six Months To Release 29 Films

●

SRO Sets Three Releases For First Quarter of '49

●

M-G-M To Roll New Program In October No Budget Ceilings!

●

Odlum, Rathvon Set Financing On "A Woman's Place" — Rosalind Russell

●

Paramount Starting Nine By Year-End

●

U.S. Accuses Ticket Makers of Conspiracy 33 Mfgs. Named by the F.T.C.

●

Variety International To Operate Will Rogers Memorial Hospital

●

French Agreement Permits 121 U.S. Films Annually

●

Twentieth Century-Fox Offers Thirty-Two For 1948-49 Season

●

Monogram - Allied Artists Reach All-Time High With 61 For '48-'49

Noise Hating Fan Rebels Strikes Out At Offenders

From The Calgary Albertan

I'm sorry I missed the fun when a Chicago lady had the courage to do what countless thousands of moviegoers have wanted to do for years. But shame on Chicago. They owe the lady an apology for putting her in jail overnight.

It seems that a Mrs. Alice King, age 94, went to a movie.

Presumably she wanted to hear what was going on. But there was chomping of popcorn, rustling of candy wrappers and paper bags, laughing and conversation.

Mrs. King soon had enough and went into action.

She did a little plain and fancy left- and right - handed, catch - as - catch-can bopping of the youthful noggins within her reach. Bang went her purse on one and whomp it went on another.

Mrs. King was taken into custody, refused to tell anyone where she lived. Nobody's business, said she. They released her the next day.

Hurray for Mrs. King and a Cleveland Press editorial, which wonders if profit on lobby candy counters is worth all the good-will theatres lose.

I've been asking the same question for years, but I'm sorry I've never had the courage of Mrs. King.

Readers Digest's Trailer For New Disney Film

Readers Digest will carry for the first time, in its December issue, an abbreviated version of a book simultaneously with the release of the film version. Tieup was made by Walt Disney Productions on "So Dear to My Heart," It will also mark another first for the Digest in that extensive illustrations will be used. They will all be Disney drawings from the film.

Deal also provides that the mag will carry a band around the outside announcing the story and illustrations and the whole thing will also be carried in all foreign editions.

Rooney To Portray Famous Jockey For M-G-M

M-G-M announces that Mickey Rooney's next is to be "Tod Sloan", in which he plays the title role in the dramatic life story of one of the most brilliant jockeys in turf history.

The Tod Sloan production has been on the Metro stocks for some time, and decision to star Mickey Rooney in it followed his outstanding success in "Killer McCoy" in which he played a world champion boxer.

Rooney recently completed a principal role in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's multi-star musical "Words and Music", based on the lives of Rodgers and Hart, famous song-writing team.

RAY PRESENTS

(*Continued from Page 3*)

"The Quota Era passed, along came War II. Surviving War II along came Conservation, and Dollar shortages, but the British picture survived. It forged into foreign markets, particularly into the long-coveted American market. At the height of its American Market success, the British Labour Government introduced the 75% Ad Valorem Tax, upsetting the American market applecart, and while this Ad Valorem tax was still a thorn in the flesh, the British Labor Government followed through with its 45% Quota legislation for features, plus over 25% for second features."

Mr. Rank's statement, "We in our small way have made considerable progress. British films are being shown today in ninety-five different territories, and to audiences which are increasing quarter by quarter. In Australia, in New Zealand, in South Africa, in every country where our product is shown consistently exhibitors are making money with British Films. In Canada, in the last two years or so, where we have been able to give British Films continuity of exhibition in our theatres, the percentage of screen time has risen from approximately four percent to twenty-five percent, and those theatres are taking no less money.

This is important because in America, three years ago, the leaders of the Hollywood industry told me time and again that the Canadian market and the American market were virtually the same. Yet in America by last year we were starting but only starting to make an impression. Just at the moment when the future in the United States seemed brightest — when the leaders of the big American circuits had promised substantial playing time for British pictures — the shock came to all of us. Overnight the ad valorem duty was imposed. To those of us who understood the real implications of this government decision, whether we were exhibitors or producers, the seriousness of the situation was evident. As you know, we none of us were consulted, we none of us were prepared to meet the situation. This was a government decision made necessary by the desperate dollar situation.

"THE next shock was the immediate embargo of the shipment of Hollywood films to this country. Neither you nor I — together the greatest overseas customer that Hollywood has ever had — were given any warning by Hollywood. And, at the same time, British films in the United States faced a new factor — the 'unseen quota' — which was the expression of a natural resentment against their revenues from England being cut, and on a short view was quite understandable. This 'unseen quota' placed a new restriction on the expansion of British films in the United States."

Mr. Rank states in his address, that he was always opposed to Quota legislation, that he changed his views because of the American film embargo, that such an embargo might leave British exhibitors without product, and that he saw a relief from such a possibility only by the assurance of a steady flow of British production; but with such production must come the assurance of adequate British film playing-time.

Mr. Rank states that Hollywood pictures still have 55% of playing time despite the 45% feature picture British Film Quota legislation, that he welcomes Hollywood pictures, that he may have made some remarks in a heated moment, referring to a prosecution of exhibitors who reneged on the Quota requirements, but that he advocated help being given to exhibitors in certain situations who could not meet the Quota requirements.

I SAW no comment in the text of the address by Mr. Rank referring to the 25% and over Quota requirements for B class British films. Nor to the other restrictions which cover the 75% Ad Valorem tax, the combination of which with the British Film Quota regulations, certainly does not make the British film market for Hollywood productions appear a very inviting prospect.

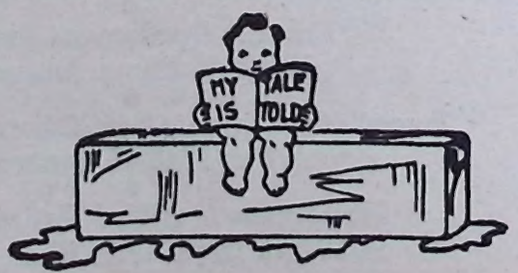
Mr. Rank is not as interested in the Hollywood problem regarding Hollywood's foreign markets as is Hollywood. He is mainly interested in the establishment of a sound market for British Films, in production, distribution and exhibition, first and foremost in Great Britain, secondly in foreign markets. If in pursuit of this objective he loses the American market, but gains many other foreign markets, he will not have lost what he has not had. His position in respect to the United States is different from Hollywood's to the British Market, from which Hollywood had been taking considerable revenue.

BUT Quota Films, if patterned after some of those we have seen in the past, will not secure for Mr. Rank, or the British Industry, either a home market or a foreign market, leaving the United States entirely out of the picture; nor will they save any dollars for the British Labour Government, for the Quota Films which I saw in England, much to my disappointment, and which a number of British cinema scrub-women saw, were worse "stinkers" than any Hollywood "stinkers" I have ever seen, and you who have seen some Hollywood "stinkers" can imagine how bad these British Quota pictures were.

If it had not been for the "smell" of these British Quota films of the past, I am certain that Mr. Rank would not have been obliged to invest millions of pounds in a British Film to show the world film markets that the British can produce films of quality and entertainment comparable to the best in the world.

If the British Government had in mind the Quota legislation, it should not have imposed the Ad Valorem Tax. That double dose was a blunder in respect to the American market for British films. If it had in mind the British Film Quota, it should have been patterned after its previous Film Quota, a sliding scale that was a "hump upon the back" of the American Film Industry, but to which it had at least become accustomed, despite the discomfort.

The British have always had a reputation for being superb diplomats. Their international relationships, in peace and in war, have always had the Disraeli and the Churchill touch; but "how hath the mighty fallen", for the British Labour Government commits blunders of such a clumsy nature, that I am forced to believe that they must have a few Conservative advisers, deliberately giving them wrong tips for their defeat.



Vancouver News

By JACK DROY

BING CROSBY and his gang of movie and radio stars which included Ray Milland, Marilyn Maxwell, B. Gargan and others entertained 8000 people last week in aid of Sunset Memorial Association's juvenile building. The gross was nearly $33,000 at the Forum in Exhibition Park. Bing recorded his ABC network show on stage and made a big hit with his 'Bob Hope' jokes. He introduced Ray Milland as "the man who lost a week-end and found an Oscar." Bob Hope is expected here in December for a charity performance.

* * *

A suburban theatre in a Quonset hut is being erected in the Oak-Bay zone of Victoria, at a cost of $25,000. *Theatre will seat* 450 *people and will be an independent. Partners in the enterprise are Bill Walker, a Victoria druggist and B. A. Nixon, who was in show business in Calgary and Alberta and will manage the new theatre which is expected to be operating by November.*

* * *

When Tunny Morrison, manager of the Victoria Road Theatre resigned, Frank Gow, F-P district manager announced that Frank MacKenzie, assistant manager of the Orpheum takes over the Victoria, and his job is filled by "Mac" Smee from the Strand; Ross Jenkins, formerly of Theatre Confections, takes over at the Strand as assistant to manager Jack Randall.

* * *

Win Barron of Paramount made a fast trip from Toronto to look after the interests of Bing Crosby and Ray Milland, Paramount stars here for a benefit performance. Also in town was George Beeton, former Odeon executive now with the Paul Nathanson show business interests in Toronto, here on vacation(?). Howard Boothe, Odeon's B.C. district manager, and Frank Kershaw of Candy Concessions are both back from Toronto trips.

* * *

British pictures were taking up most of Vancouver's first run dates this week with "Escape" at the Capitol, "So Evil My Love" at the Strand, "Hatters Castle" at the Cinema, "Duel Alibi" at the Orpheum, all F-P houses, and "Blanche Fury" at Odeon's Vogue. Vancouver still likes Hollywood films, but they also show a marked attraction to the varied fare which the British product provided in their moviegoing diet the past few years.

Sex Education is to become a school subject for B.C. children, the Minister of Education announced. Motion pictures and class discussions will be used in teaching the course.

* * *

Comedy and outdoor action films are ringing the bell at boxoffices in this zone. Heavy dramas, with few exceptions, have slipped into a secondary position from the boxoffice standpoint, British Columbia theatremen report.

* * *

Max Sheine, Eagle-Lion booker, has left for Toronto on promotion to head office. Maxie will be missed on local film row where he was one of the best liked bookers.

FOR SALE

THEATRE CHAIRS

We now have a very large stock of excellent reconditioned (as new) Theatre Chairs. Quantities up to 1200 of a kind. Immediate delivery.

NOW — New all-steel construction spring-edge, highest quality Theatre Chairs available.

7500 yards of imported carpet direct from England and Scotland.

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Trans-Canada Showing

Use This Information As Your Guide On Release Dates

TORONTO

BILTMORE
"So This Is New York" with Henry Morgan. Also "Argyle Secrets" (F-C), with William Gargan.

EGLINTON-TIVOLI
2nd week. "Life With Father" (W-B), Technicolor, with William Powell and Irene Dunne.

FAIRLAWN-DANFORTH
"The 1948 Olympic Games" (E-L), with Athletes of the World.

IMPERIAL
"Beyond Glory" (Para.), with Alan Ladd and Donna Reed.

LOEW'S
"The Time of Your Life" with James Cagney.

NORTOWN-VICTORIA
"The Search" (M-G-M), with Montgomery Clift, Ivan Jandl and Wendell Corey.

ODEON-TORONTO
3rd week. "Oliver Twist" (E-L), with Robert Newton and Kay Walsh.

SHEA'S
"Rachel and The Stranger" (R-K-O), with Loretta Young, William Holden and Robert Mitchum.

UPTOWN
"A Southern Yankee" (M-G-M), with Red Skelton and Brian Donlevy.

MONTREAL

CAPITOL
"Silver River" (W-B), with Errol Flynn and Ann Sheridan.

IMPERIAL
"Meet Me At Dawn" (Fox), with William Eythe.

LOEW'S
2nd week. "Emperor Waltz" (Para.), Technicolor, with Bing Crosby and Joan Fontaine.

PALACE
"Up in Central Park" (U-I), with Deanna Durbin and Dick Haymes.

PRINCESS
2nd week. "Key Largo" (W-B), with Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson and Lauren Bacall.

SAINT JOHN

CAPITOL
"The Senator Was Indiscreet" (U-I), with William Powell and Ella Raines.

MAYFAIR
"Stella Dallas" (F-C), with Barbara Stanwyck and John Boles. Also "Campus Honeymoon" (Rep.), with Lyn Wilde and Lee Wilde.

STRAND
"Unconquered" (Para.), Technicolor, with Gary Cooper and Paulette Goddard.

WINNIPEG

CAPITOL
"Anna Karenina" (Fox), with Vivien Leigh and Ralph Richardson.

GAIETY
4th week. "Duel in the Sun" (SRO), Technicolor, with Jennifer Jones and Gregory Peck.

GARRICK
"Another Part of the Forest" (U-I), with Fredric March and Dan Duryea.

METROPOLITAN
"The Pirate" (M-G-M), Technicolor, with Judy Garland and Gene Kelley.

ODEON
2nd week. "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (U-I), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

CALGARY

CAPITOL
"On An Island With You" (M-G-M), Technicolor, with Esther Williams and Peter Lawford.

GRAND
"Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (U-I), with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. Also "Best Man Wins" (Col.), with Edgar Buchanan and Anna Lee.

PALACE
"The Fugitive" (R-K-O), with Henry Fonda and Dolores Del Rio. Also "The Checkered Coat" (Fox), with Tom Conway and Noreen Nash.

VANCOUVER

CAPITOL
"Escape" (Fox), with Rex Harrison and Peggy Cummins.

INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
"Hatter's Castle" (Para.), with James Mason, Deborah Kerr and Robert Newton. Also "The Sainted Sisters" (Para.), with Veronica Lake, Joan Caulfield and Barry Fitzgerald.

ORPHEUM
"The Walls of Jericho" (Fox), with Cornel Wilde, Linda Darnell and Anna Baxter. Also "Dual Alibi" with Herbert Lom.

PARADISE
"Over the Moon", Technicolor, with Rex Harrison and Merle Oberon. Also "Catherine the Great", with Douglas Fairbanks, Jr. and Elizabeth Bergner.

PLAZA
"Man Eater of Kumaon" (U-I), with Sabu. Also "Daredevils of the Clouds" (Rep.), with Robert Livingstone.

STRAND
"So Evil My Love" (Para.), with Ray Milland and Ann Todd.

VOGUE
"Up in Central Park" (U-I), with Deanna Durbin and Dick Haymes.

FAMOUS PLAYERS CANADIAN CORPORATION LTD.
AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES

From J. J. FITZGIBBONS

To ALL DISTRICT MANAGERS AND BOOKERS

Date SEPTEMBER 2nd, 1948.

Last night I screened a National Film Board short, "THE LESLIE BELL SINGERS" released through Columbia Pictures of Canada.

This is an excellent short subject concerning a very famous Canadian singing organization which has received wide publicity on the radio and through personal appearances. If properly sold, this short subject will not only sell extra tickets but will give added satisfaction to Canadian audiences everywhere.

Every effort should be made to give this reel the fullest coverage in our best theatres.

Signed: J. J. FITZGIBBONS.

LET THE

BELL SINGERS

sing away your

BOX OFFICE BLUES

a NEW topic . . . and
a NEW angle . . . with
a NEW treatment . . . in
the NEW Canada Carries On release

IT'S FUN TO SING featuring the LESLIE BELL SINGERS . . . .

highlighting 60 girl singers in 10 minutes of lively entertainment . . . songs from Palestrina to a rollicking rendition of popular "Dry Bones".

BOOK NOW THROUGH **COLUMBIA PICTURES OF CANADA LTD.**

« Capital Story »

By WILL McLAUGHLIN

MISS PIERETTE PAQUIN, talented young daughter of Donat Paquin, well-known Ottawa and Hull business man and exhibitor, has returned home from Barrie and Lake Placid. Accompanied by her mother, Miss Paquin spent the month of August in Barrie, where she trained in figure skating at the Barrie Summer Skating Rink. Later, they went on to Lake Placid where Pierette passed her seventh and eighth figure skating tests and was awarded the American Gold Medal by the United States Amateur Figure Skating Association. She hopes to follow in the footsteps of Ottawa's Barbara Ann Scott as an amateur champion by participation in the coming season's competitions.

* * *

First concert of the annual Tremblay subscription series incidentally, will be presented at the Capitol Theatre on Wednesday, November 3. Maestro Tony Tremblay will offer seven concerts during the 1948-49 season, all of them at the Capitol through special arrangements made with manager Ray Tubman and Famous Players.

* * *

Former Ottawa theatre managers now located in various centres of the Dominion, traveling film salesmen out of Montreal and Toronto, and local showmen learned with regret of the passing of Frank Goodale last month in St. Petersburg, Florida. The late Mr. Goodale was manager of Loew's Theatre here (now the Capitol) in the heyday of vaudeville. He left Ottawa to take over the management of Loew's State in White Plains, N.Y., when the local house passed into the hands of the Keith-Albee interests. In Ottawa on a friendly visit about five years ago, Frank gently kidded the boys on their gray hairs and other signs of advancing years while he retained his youthful appearance and vitality. But old Father Time plays no favorites and the Last Curtain Call came for Frank at the age of 61.

* * *

Lauritz Melchior, famed operatic tenor and featured singer in several Metro - Goldwyn - Mayer pictures, may give a recital in Ottawa this fall. Negotiations are now under way for a Canadian tour which will include this city, probably November 2, if Mr. Melchior will consent to sing at Tommy Gorman's Auditorium.

UNDISPUTED CHAMP

Bing Crosby, star of Paramount's "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court," is undisputed king of the recording field. More than 60 million Crosby records have been sold in the past 14 years.

Manager Frank Gallop of the Glebe (Odeon) Theatre, had the honor of "preeming" the special J. Arthur Rank film, "The XIV Olympiad". This two-hour Technicolor feature gives a complete account of the highlights of the Winter and Summer Olympics. Ottawa's Barbara Ann Scott is prominent in the film and several other Ottawa and district athletes are seen in action.

* * *

Hugh Parker's Stage Society opened its second season at the La Salle Academy Theatre on Tuesday evening, September 21. The initial attraction was "John Loves Mary", with "The Rivals" underlined for the following week.

* * *

Casey Swedlove, owner-manager of the Linden Theatre, is taking advantage of the recent Hollywood scandal by advertising Robert Mitchum as "the talk of the town" in "Pursued". There was a time — and not so long ago — when an exhibitor would be all for cancelling bookings of any pictures featuring a star who had become involved in any unfavorable publicity for fear of offending patrons.

Scandal No Drawback To BO On Mitchum's Latest Pic

Marijuana charge on which Robert Mitchum was rapped in Los Angeles three weeks ago appears to have hypoed his b.o. pull if anything. "Rachel and the Stranger," starring the actor, which RKO rushed into theatres during the past week, has racked up hefty grosses in every engagement and appears headed for a good share of holdovers.

Astral Releases UNA's Documentary of '48

The United Nations Association has produced a picture showing the highlights of the year 1948, to help prove their slogan 'There's a U in United Nations'.

The activities of the association are covered in brief, and also such matters as the Palestine situation, Ghandi's death, the economic commission to the far east, the Indonesia story, and what have you. Pic is being handled by Astral Films here in Canada.

Canadian Films Outstanding At Festival

"Canadian films were the highlight of the (Edinburgh) Festival", said Basil Wright, eminent British motion picture producer, speaking on the CBC Dominion network in a special broadcast from Edinburgh. "There were 20 of them all told," he said, "And so well made, so varied in approach, in style, in technique that the program committee decided Canada was one country which must have a complete program all to itself."

Mr. Wright reported the Canadian screen program was repeated four times, some of the films shown separately in various programs. He mentioned in particular the National Film Board production, "The Connors Case," based on an actual murder investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, and two of Norman McLaren's animations in color. The first two Canadian showings were introduced by Ross McLean, Canadian Government Films Commissioner.

"The film which made the biggest impact was undoubtedly "Horizon du Quebec", Mr. Wright told his listeners. He believed the production, which deals with the province of Quebec in a general way, was most important on the international level. He said, "It reveals something which is seldom if ever appreciated by people outside Canada — the influence of the French tradition and the contribution it has made and is making to the development of the nation."

Wright termed the Canadian contribution to the Festival "an enormous stride forward." Declaring that documentary film-making in Canada had come of age, the British producer said Canadian films represented an international contribution "all the more powerful because it is firmly based on national characteristics and aspirations." He referred to the documentary method as concerned "not with imposing ideas upon people but with providing people with the opportunity to share them."

BELL SINGERS STAR IN HIT SHORT

Vocalizing anything ranging from a Palestrina composition to a Quebec chanson to the negro spiritual "Dry Bones" seems to be the forte of the Leslie Bell Singers as they make their first screen appearance in the September release of the Canada Carries On production "It's Fun To Sing". Script is by Len Peterson, well-known Canadian radio writer now with the National Film Board.

"It's Fun To Sing" features the Leslie Bell Singers, internationally famous Toronto choral group. Camera lens catches them at practice, at play, and as they perform on the stage. Made up of stenos, nurses, store clerks, students, the choir is a group of ordinary Canadian girls who "just like to sing".

In one sequence they are hard at practice (which they manage to sandwich in three nights a week) under the tutelage of their founder and director, Dr. Leslie Bell. Another scene shows them relaxing as they prankishly do a "Dry Bones" routine with the janitor who is sweeping their practice hall.

Bell prefers to select his singers from the ranks of the unprofessional and claims he avoids temperamental idiosyncracies. His choir will tackle anything from the top song on the hit parade to a Bach Chorale.

LOVE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER!....
YOUTH-FILLED ROMANCE set to SONGS
in Paramount's JOY-PACKED,
that'll set your heart throbbin'n bobbin'
Isn't It
Romantic
A Paramount Picture Starring
VERONICA LAKE
Now everybody'll know that V.L. stands for "Violent Love!"
MONA FREEMAN
She wrote all those sizzling love letters in "DearRuth"!
BILLY DE WOLFE
Comedy sensation of "Dear Ruth" and "Blue Skies"!
MARY HATCHER
The girl who put the spice of life into "Variety Girl"!
You'll come out humming these happy tunes... and chuckling way down to your toes!
"MISS JULIE JULY"
"WOND'RIN' WHEN"
"ISN'T IT ROMANTIC?"
with ROLAND CULVER • PATRIC KNOWLES • RICHARD WEBB and PEARL BAILEY
Produced by DANIEL DARE • Directed by NORMAN Z. McLEOD • Screenplay by Theodore Strauss,
Josef Mischel and Richard L. Breen • Based on a story by Jeannette Covert Nolan